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2. A process for the preparation of transparent or translucent O/W microemulsions which comprise:

(1) an aqueous phase with optional substances soluble or dispersible in water,

(2) an oil phase comprising constituents of low volatility and optional substances soluble or dispersible in the oil phase,

(3) one or more polyethoxylated O/W emulsifiers and/or one or more polypropoxylated O/W emulsifiers and/or one or more polyethoxylated and polypropoxylated O/W emulsifiers, and

(4) optionally one or more W/O emulsifiers,

which process comprises

(a) the initial concentrations of the oil phase, the aqueous phase and, optionally one or more W/O emulsifiers are chosen and these constituents are added to one another to form a mixture,

(b) the initial concentration of the O/W emulsifier or emulsifiers, which may also be equal to zero, is chosen and this O/W emulsifier or these O/W emulsifiers are added to the mixture obtained in (a),

(c) the mixture obtained in (b) having a starting temperature, and

(d) the mixture obtained in (b) by appropriate variation of at least one parameter selected from the group **[comprising]** ***consisting of*** the

temperature and the concentration or concentrations of at least one of the chosen emulsifiers and/or of the oil phase and/or of the aqueous phase, and the mixture formed passes through the phase inversion region between W/O emulsions and O/W emulsions and is brought into the region where the mixture exists as an O/W emulsion or O/W microemulsion.

3. A process for the preparation of transparent or translucent O/W microemulsions according to Claim 1, **[which process comprises]** ***wherein*** a mixture of the base components, comprising the aqueous phase, the oil phase, one or more of the O/W emulsifiers, optionally one or more W/O emulsifiers, and optionally other auxiliary substances, additives and/or active substances which form an O/W emulsion below the phase inversion temperature range, is brought to a temperature

- at which the components soluble in the oil phase dissolve or are at least in the molten state,
- which corresponds at least to the melting point of the highest-melting oil component not present in the dissolved state,
- and which is below the phase inversion temperature range of the system, and the resulting O/W emulsion is then cooled to room temperature to form an O/W microemulsion.